

**To:** Thurmon, Clarke[Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Kenney, James[Kenney.James@epa.gov]  
**From:** John Beauge  
**Sent:** Fri 7/19/2013 12:58:23 PM  
**Subject:** XTO case

Clarke and James,

I write for the Harrisburg Patriot-News in Pennsylvania and I have a couple of follow up questions on the XTO consent decree. Why did EPA take the lead on this instead of the state Department of Environmental Protection that discovered the discharge? DEP tells me procedural requirements necessitated EPA going first. Can you explain? Also, is this the first time in the Marcellus Shale region that EPA has taken the lead in cases like this?

Your prompt response will be appreciated.

John Beauge